

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ISO-00 /070 W

----- 040175

O R 121425Z DEC 74 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 6579

INFO SECDEF

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAREUR

USDOCOSOUTH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, NATO, GR, US

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE RE STATUS OF U.S. BASES

REF: ATHENS 8808 AND STATE 271118

BRUSSELS FOR AMBASSADOR KUBISCH

1. ATHENS PRESS DECEMBER 12 IN CONNECTION WITH REPORTING
PM CARAMANLIS' POLICY ADDRESS (FBIS NO. 0316, 111655Z
DEC 74), STATED THAT GOG SENT NOTES TO GOVERNMENTS OF
NATO MEMBERS REGARDING TECHNICAL PROCEDURE OF PRACTICAL
WITHDRAWAL OF GREECE FROM MILITARY ALLIANCE OF NATO AND
SECOND NOTE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT CONCERNING GOG INTENTION
TO REVIEW STATUS OF U.S. BASES FROM POINT OF VIEW WHETHER
BASES SERVE GREEK DEFENSE INTERESTS. PRESS ACCOUNTS
VARY IN CITING GOG SPOKESMAN OR PRESS CIRCLES AS SOURCE
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OF INFORMATION. PAO LEARNED THAT GOG PRESS SPOKESMAN LAMBRIAS

GAVE THIS INFORMATION TO PRESS.

2. TO VIMA (CENTER-LEFT) ON FRONTPAGE CARRIED CAPTION "REVIEW STATUS OF AMERICAN BASES--THOSE (BASES) WILL BE ABOLISHED WHICH DO NOT SERVE THE DEFENSE OF GREECE--HOW MANY AND WHICH BASES ARE FUNCTIONING TODAY." TO VIMA ENUMERATES SEVEN U.S. BASES IN GREECE: "ELLINIKON AIR BASE WHERE 7206TH IS STATIONED, CHANIA MISSILE TESTING CENTER (I.E. NAMFI), AIR BASE AT SOUDA BAY, IRAKLION TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP, MARATHON NAVY SIGNAL BASE, ARTILLERY GROUP 558 IN ELEFSIS AND LAGADAS AND PORT FACILITIES IN ELEFSIS." ARTICLE NOTED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. BASES BROUGHT ABOUT BY SEVERAL TREATIES: NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, JULY 19, 1951, GREEK-AMERICAN AGREEMENT OCTOBER 12, 1953 REGARDING MILITARY FACILITIES FOR AMERICAN FORCES IN GREECE, GREEK-AMERICAN AGREEMENT SEPTEMBER 7, 1956 CONCERNING THE LEGAL STATUS OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES IN GREECE, GREEK-AMERICAN AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 8, 1973 CONCERNING THE 6TH FLEET HOMEPORTING FACILITIES, AGREEMENT OF JUNE 2, 1956 CONCERNING PERSONNEL CUSTOM CONTROL, AND MEMORANDUM OF AUGUST 28, 1972 WHICH REGULATES THE PROCEDURE FOR THE USAGE OF THE 7206 UNIT INSTALLATIONS.

3. TO VIMA CITED EXCERPTS FROM 1953 BILATERAL AGREEMENT-- "THE GOG AUTHORIZES USG TO USE ROADS, RAILROADS, ETC. AND TO CONSTRUCT PROJECTS AS NECESSARY FOR PROMOTION OR IMPLEMENTATION OF NATO APPROVED PLANS.... U.S. GOVERNMENT MAY TRANSPORT, ESTABLISH AND SHELTER IN GREECE U.S. PERSONNEL ON ITS (US) BASES.... U.S. FORCES AND THE MATERIEL WHICH IS UNDER U.S. CONTROL MAY ENTER, CIRCULATE, DEPART AND FLY OVER GREEK TERRITORY AND TERRITORIAL WATERS FREELY WITH RESERVATION OF ANY TECHNICAL AGREEMENT WHICH MAY BE ENTERED INTO BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF TWO GOVERNMENTS (AND SUCH ACTIONS ARE FREE FROM DUTIES, CUSTOMS, DUES, AND TAXES)." TO VIMA CONTINUED THAT "UNDER SPECIAL PROTOCOL OF 1953 AGREEMENT IT IS DETERMINED THAT U.S. FORCES, AIRCRAFT, VESSELS, VEHICLES, HAVE RIGHT TO ENTER AND DEPART FREELY FROM GREECE AND TO CIRCULATE WITHIN GREECE AND GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS. VESSELS SAILING ON BEHALF OF USG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR UNDER CONTROL OF USG WILL HAVE FREE USE OF PORT FACILITIES." NEWS ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT 1973 HOMEPORTING AGREEMENT PROVIDED FOR SIX DESTROYERS TO BE PORTED IN ELEFSIS AND FOR SECOND PHASE TO INCLUDE ONE AIRCRAFT CARRIER. IT ADDED: "THE FALL OF THE DICTATORSHIP OF PAPADOPOULOS, HOWEVER, ARRESTED THESE PLANS."

4. COMMENT: RELATIVE ACCURACY OF DISCUSSION OF U.S.-
UTILIZED FACILITIES AND OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS UNDER
WHICH THEY FUNCTION CONFIRMS THAT ARTICLE WAS BASED ON
BACKGROUND MATERIAL PROVIDED BY GOG OFFICIAL. THIS IS
STRIKINGLY APPARENT IN EXCERPTS QUOTED FROM "SPECIAL
PROTOCOL" TO 1953 MFA, WHICH IS CLASSIFIED SECRET. WE
WOULD ANTICIPATE OTHER STORIES ABOUT U.S. MILITARY
PRESENCE
AS PROCESS OF REVIEWING THAT PRESENCE AND GOVERNING
AGREEMENTS LEADS GOG FURTHER TO ENLIGHTEN PUBLIC OPINION
IN GREECE.

5. LOCAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE PRESSED PAO FOR U.S.
POSITION ON ABOVE MATTER. SINCE GOG HAS ITSELF ALREADY
STATED THAT NOTE HAS BEEN SENT TO USG, WE PLAN SIMPLY
TO STATE: "AS PM CARAMANLIS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY WE HAVE
BEEN NOTIFIED OF GOG INTENTION TO REVIEW STATUS OF
BASES" AND TO REFER ALL OTHER QUESTIONS TO GOG.
STEARNS

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